

Dalai Lama – Tibet's spiritual leader

► **July 6, 1935:** Born to peasant family in small village in north-eastern Tibet

► **1937:** Recognised at age two as reincarnation of 13 previous Dalai Lamas by search party of Buddhist officials

► **1940:** Enthroned as 14th Dalai Lama. Tibet ruled by regents as he begins monastic education

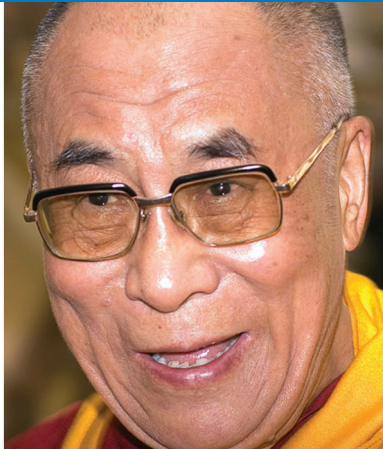
► **1950:** China invades Tibet. Dalai Lama, aged 15, assumes full power

► **1959:** Tibetan protestors demand end to Chinese rule. Troops crush revolt, killing thousands. Dalai Lama flees to Dharamsala, India, and sets up Tibetan government in exile

► **1959-65:** Dalai Lama persuades UN to adopt three resolutions calling for protection of human rights in Tibet

► **1987:** Proposes five-point plan calling for establishment of Tibet as “zone of peace”, and for end of large-scale migration by ethnic Han Chinese into Tibet

► **1989:** Awarded *Nobel Peace Prize* for his consistent opposition to violence in quest for Tibetan self-rule



► **1993:** Expresses his goal of Tibetan autonomy rather than complete independence

► **2002:** Representatives of Dalai Lama make trip to Beijing amid signs of thaw, but discussions make no substantive progress

► **Oct 17, 2007:** Dalai Lama awarded U.S. Congressional Gold Medal – highest civilian honour bestowed by Congress